*4



Practitioner's Docket No. 3156/30140

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES	PATENT AND TRAI	DEMARK OFFICE
Patent application		
f	Investor(s)	
or·	inventor(s)	
Tit	tle of invention	
ne specification of which is being tran	smitted herewith	
n re application of: Carmo Ribe	OR eiro et al	RECEIVED
opplication No.: 0 9 / 981,414 G	Aroup No.: 3745 Examiner:	JAN 2 5 2002 TECHNOLOGY CENTER R370
ssistant Commissioner for Patents Vashington, D.C. 20231		
INFORMATION T	DISCLOSURE STAT	
	ECDOSORE BIAII	CIVIENI
		•
CERTIFICATION UNDI (When using Express Mail, the	ER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.8(a)	and 1.10*
Express Mail	certification is optional.)	r is mandatory;
nereby certify that, on the date shown below, the	his correspondence is being	:
	MAILING	
deposited with the United States Postal Service For Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231	rice in an envelope address	ed to the Assistant Commissioner
37 C.F.R. § 1.8(a) with sufficient postage as first class mail.		C.F.R. § 1.10*
mar como mar pooling as mor olass man	as "Express Mail Pos	
TD	Mailing Label No	(mandatory.)
transmitted by facsimile to the Patent and Transmitted by facilities an	ANSMISSION	
Talishing by lacishing to the Patent and Th	CozoP Q. S=	zmwedski.
ate: January 3, 3002	Signature	0
	Carol A. Szy	nwelski
	(type or print name of p	erson certifyina)

"WARNING: Each paper or fee filed by Express Mail must have the number of the "Express Mail" mailing label

placed thereon prior to mailing. 37 C.F.R. § 1.10(b).

"Since the filing of correspondence under § 1.10 without the Express Mail mailing label thereon

is an oversight that can be avoided by the exercise of reasonable care, requests for waiver of this requirement will **not** be granted on petition." Notice of Oct. 24, 1996, 60 Fed. Reg. 56,439, at 56,442.

(Information Disclosure Statement [6-1]—page 1 of 8

NOTE: "An information disclosure statement shall be considered by the Office if filed by the applicant:

- (1) Within three months of the filing date of a national application;
- (2) Within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application; or
- (3) Before the mailing date of a first Office action on the ments, whichever event occurs last." 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b).

NOTE: "Each individual associated with the filing and prosecution of a patent application has a duty of candor and good faith in dealing with the Office, which includes a duty to disclose to the Office all information known to that individual to be material to patentability as defined in this section." 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a).

"Individuals associated with the filing or prosecution of a patent application within the meaning of this section are:

- (1) each inventor named in the application;
- (2) each attorney or agent who prepares or prosecutes the application; and
- (3) every other person who is substantively involved in the preparation or prosecution of the application and who is associated with the inventor, with the assignee or with anyone to whom there is an obligation to assign the application." 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c).

NOTE: The "duty as described in § 1.56 will be met so long as the information in question was cited by the Office or submitted to the Office in the manner prescribed by §§ 1.97(b)-(d) and 1.98 before issuance of the patent." Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13 -25 at 17.

WARNING: "No information disclosure statement may be filed in a provisional application." 37 C.F.R. § 1.51(b).

List of Sections Forming Part of This Information Disclosure Statement

The following sections are being submitted for this Information Disclosure Statement:

(check sections forming a part of this statement: discard unused sections and number pages consecutively)

1.		Preliminary Statements			
2.		FORMS PTO/SB/08A and 08B (formerly FORM PTO-1449)			
3.		Statement as to Information Not Found in Patents or Publications			
4.		Identification of Prior Application in Which Listed Information Was Already Cited and for Which No Copies Are Submitted or Need Be Submitted			
5.		Cumulative Patents or Publications			
6.		Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying This Statement			
7.		Concise Explanation of Non-English Language Listed Information Items			
		7A. EPO Search Report			
		7B.			
8.		Translation(s) of Non-English Language Documents			
9.		Concise Explanation of English Language Listed Information Items (Optional)			
10.		Identification of Person(s) Making This Information Disclosure Statement			
		(complete the following, if appropriate)			
Secti	ons	, respectively, have been continued on ADDED PAGE(S).			

NOTE: "Once the minimum requirements are met, the examiner has an obligation to consider the information."

Notice of April 20, 1992 (1138 O.G. 37-41, 37).

(Information Disclosure Statement [6-1]—page 2 of 8

(Rel.76—9/98 Pub.605) FORM 6-1 6—18

Section 1. Preliminary statements

Applicants submit herewith patents, publications or other information, of which they are aware that they believe may be material to the examination of this application, and in respect of which, there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made (37 C.F.R. 1.97(g)), an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists

The filing of this information disclosure statement shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 25.

Section 6. Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying This Statement

NOTE: 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a)(2) requires that any information disclosure statement filed under § 1.97 shall include: "A legible copy of: (1) Each U.S. and foreign patent; (ii) Each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; and (iii) All other information or that portion which caused it to be listed, except that no copy of a U.S. patent application need be included . . . "

NOTE: The wording in § 1.98(a)(2)(iii) makes it clear that the requirement to submit a copy of each item of information listed in an information disclosure statement does not apply to the citation of a U.S. patent application. Notice of January 9, 1992, 1135 O.G. 13-25, at 14.

Legible copies of all items listed in Forms PTO/SB/08A and 08B (formerly Form PTO-1449) accompany this information statement.

(complete the following, if applicable)

	Exception(s)	to above:
•		Items in prior application, from which an earlier filling date is claimed for this application, as identified in Section 4.
		Cumulative patents or publications identified in Section 5.

(Information Disclosure Statement—Section 6. Copies of Listed Information Items Accompanying

This Statement [6-1]—page ______ of ________)

FORM 6-1

(ReL76-9/98 Pub.605)

Section 10. Identification of Person(s) Making This Information Disclosure Statement

me pers	OH HI	aking this statement is		
		(check each applicable item)		
(a)		the inventor(s) who signs below		
		SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR		
(b)		(type name of inventor who is signing) an individual associated with the filing and prosecution of this application (37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c))		
	•	SIGNATURE OF INVENTOR		
		(type name of inventor who is signing)		
(c)		the practitioner who signs below on the basis of the information:		
		(check each applicable item)		
		supplied by the inventor(s).supplied by an individual associated with the filing and prosecution		
		of this application. (37 C.F.R. § 7.56(c)) in the practitioner's file.		
Reg. No.: 36,937 Tel. No.: 989) 799-5300		SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER 6,937 Robert L. Stearns		
		799-5300 (type or print name of practitioner) 5291 Colony Drive North		
Custome	r No.:	P.O. Address		
		Saginaw, Michigan 48603		

(Information Disclosure Statement—Section 10. Identification of Person(s) Making This Information Disclosure Statement [6-1]—page 8 of 8)

(Rel.76—9/98 Pub.605) FORM 6-1 6-3